

REMARKS

Claims 1-80 are pending in this application.

Claims 1, 22, 43, and 62 have been amended to more particularly define the invention. Claims 11, 32, 53, 72, and 79 have been amended to correct minor typographical errors. No new matter has been added as a result of these amendments.

Claims 1-5, 7, 12-14, 16, 17, 19-26, 28, 33-35, 37, 38, 40-47, 49, 54-57, 59-66, 68, 73-76, and 78-80 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Florin et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,583,560 (hereinafter "Florin").

Claims 6, 8-11, 15, 18, 27, 29-32, 36, 39, 48, 50-53, 58, 67, 69-72, and 77 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Florin in view of various other references.

The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Examiner contends that "[t]he independent claims in the application are silent as to . . . simultaneous display of both simple and combination categories, thus Florin teaches displaying both simple and combination categories" (Office Action, page 2). Applicants believe, however, that the simultaneous display of both simple and combination categories was inherent in applicants' original independent claims. The originally

filed independent claims contained "displaying a selectable list of the simple categories and combination categories on the user equipment." However, in order to advance prosecution, applicants have amended claims 1, 22, 43, and 62 to explicitly recite this feature. Accordingly, the differences between applicants' claimed invention and Florin (the sole reference relied on in rejecting applicants' independent claims) should now be explicitly clear. Nevertheless, applicants have provided the following discussion to highlight these differences.

Applicants' invention, as defined by independent claims 1, 22, 43, and 62, relates to systems and a method in which program listings and information on certain simple categories of programming and certain combination categories of programming are supplied to an interactive television program guide. Simple categories include distinct categories, such as movies, comedy, sports, and series. Combination categories include combinations of simple categories, such as comedy-movies, comedy-series, and sports-baseball. The interactive television program guide displays a list "simultaneously displaying both the simple categories and the combination categories" (emphasis added). The simple categories and the combination categories are selectable by a user from the selectable list. When the user selects one of the simple categories or one of the combination categories, the interactive television program

guide searches for those program listings that are associated with the selected category and displays them to the user.

Florin refers to an electronic program guide system in which program listings are organized into a multi-level, hierarchical structure of categories (e.g., all, favorites, movies, sports, news, and music video (see col. 18, lines 3-16 and FIG. 28)) and subcategories (e.g., subcategories of "sports" including baseball, football, basketball, auto racing, hockey and golf (see col. 18, lines 61-63 and FIG. 29)). According to Florin, the user must traverse through potentially several menus of categories and subcategories in order to access program listings that are associated with the lowest level subcategory selected (e.g., to arrive at the listing of baseball programming shown in FIG. 29 of Florin, a user must first select "sports" from the menu shown in FIG. 28 followed by a selection of "baseball" from the menu shown in FIG. 29). The user is unable to identify his interest in baseball until he has maneuvered two layers into the Florin category/subcategory structure.

Each of independent claims 1, 22, 43, and 62 now includes "displaying a selectable list simultaneously displaying both the simple categories and the combination categories on the user equipment," or an equivalent variant of the phrase (emphasis added). Applicants' independent

claims 1, 22, 43, and 62 distinctly claim a list containing both simple categories and combination categories. This is illustrated by, for example, applicants' FIG. 4 which shows "sports" and "sports-baseball" in the same selectable list. Florin, in no way, shows the ability to select "sports-baseball" from the same list as "sports." Rather, Florin shows first selecting "sports" from a main categories list and then selecting "baseball" from a subcategory list.

The differences between Florin and applicants' claimed invention are illustrated by the following examples:

<u>Florin</u>	<u>Applicants' FIG. 4</u>
All	Sports
Favorites	Sports-Drama
Movies	Sports-Comedy
Sports →	Sports-Baseball
News	Sports-Football
Music Video	Sports-Series

FIG. 28

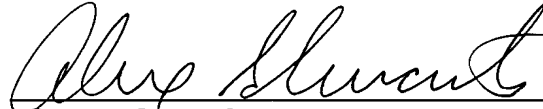
FIG. 29

Florin fails to mention any simultaneous display of both simple and combination categories on the electronic program guide. Applicants respectfully submit that Florin fails to show or suggest the features of applicants' claimed invention, and therefore fails to anticipate applicants' claimed invention, as defined by independent claims 1, 22, 43, and 62.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 22, 43, and 62 are allowable. Claims 2-21, 23-42, 44-61, and 63-80, which depend from independent claims 1, 22, 43, and 62, are allowable because independent claims 1, 22, 43, and 62 are allowable. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-80 be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully submit that this patent application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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